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STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application, claims 1 and 7 are the independent claims.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated unpatentable over Allie et al. in view of Givehchi. This rejection is hereby traversed for at least the following reasons.

In accordance with the present invention set forth in claim 1, a method is provided for controlling the bias point of a Mach-Zehnder modulator. The method begins by applying a dither signal to a DC bias that is applied to a Mach-Zehnder modulator. A component of an optical output signal provided by the Mach-Zehnder modulator is detected that is synchronous with the dither signal. The dither signal is adjusted to maintain the detected component of the optical output signal at a substantially constant value.

The Examiner asserts that Allie et al. shows a Mach-Zehnder modulator to which a dither signal is applied to the DC bias. As the Examiner apparently recognizes, Allie et al. does not show the steps of detecting a component of an optical output signal provided by the Mach-Zehnder modulator that is synchronous with the dither signal and the step of adjusting the dither signal to maintain the detected component of the optical output signal at a substantially constant value. The Examiner further asserts that these claimed steps are shown by Givehchi and that it would it would have been obvious to combine these steps in Givehchi with the modulator shown in Allie et al.

Even assuming arguendo that Givehchi shows the step of detecting a component of an optical output signal provided by the Mach-Zehnder modulator that is synchronous with the dither signal, Givehchi completely fails to show or suggest the step of adjusting the dither signal to maintain the detected component of the optical output signal at a substantially constant value. Rather, Givehchi states that the DC bias voltage is adjusted to eliminate the dither voltage from the output optical signal (see paragraph 23). Thus, Givehchi provides a criterion for adjusting the DC bias voltage and not the dither signal,

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as required by the claims of the present invention. Moreover, Givchchi nowhere states that the adjustment to the bias voltage leads to an optical output signal that is constant in value. Accordingly Givchchi, alone or in combination with the remaining references cited by the Examiner, fails to show this step of the invention set forth in claim 1 and thus claim 1 is believed to be allowable over the art of record..

Independent claims 7 and the claims that depend therefrom are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons presented above in connection with claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes there are still unresolved issues, a telephone call to the undersigned would be welcomed.

Fees

If there are any fees due and owing in respect to this amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marjorie Scariati

(Printed Name of Person Sending Correspondence)

Marjorie Scariati

(Signature)